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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6239

BILL NUMBER: HB 1136

NOTE PREPARED: Nov 20, 2008

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Testing of Special Education Students.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Reske

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill allows a student who is a child with a disability to participate in: (1) the ISTEP test; or (2) an alternate assessment as determined by the student's case conference committee. The bill provides that the case conference committee for a student who is a child with a disability may determine that the student is eligible to graduate if the student: (1) passes an appropriate alternative assessment; (2) maintains at least a 95% attendance rate; (3) maintains a "C" average or the equivalent; and (4) satisfies all other nonacademic state and local graduation requirements.

The bill provides that a student who is a child with a disability may receive a certificate of completion if the student completes the goals set out in the student's individualized education program.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Summary-* The impact to school expenditures would depend on the alternative assessment chosen by school corporations. School corporations (via case conference committees for students with disabilities) would have additional flexibility by allowing students with disabilities to receive a diploma either through ISTEP passage or an appropriate alternate assessment, or to receive a certificate of completion without testing, via completion of the student's individual educational program.

Background-

ISTAR: The Department of Education uses ISTAR as an alternative to ISTEP, with the stipulation it may be used on only 1% of special education students for federal AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) purposes. A student's case conference committee determines if the ISTAR may be used as an alternative assessment in place of ISTEP for students with "a significant cognitive disability." Students designated as limited English proficient are allowed to take the ISTAR. ISTAR is provided to schools by the Department of Education for free, except for minimal software upgrade charges.

Students with Disabilities: 178,045 students with disabilities were enrolled in public schools during the 2007-2008 school year. The following table illustrates the aggregate performance of students with disabilities who took the graduation examination during the fall of 2007 (Fall 2008 results are not yet available).

Special Education Graduation Examination Results.				
Special Education Category	Total Tested English	Percent Passing English	Total Tested Math	Percent Passing Math
With Accommodations	9,261	18%	9,188	23%
Without Accommodations	1,226	39%	1,299	43%
Total	10,487	21%	10,487	26%

During school year 2006-2007, about 4,961 students with disabilities graduated with a diploma and 1,055 were awarded a certificate. (School year 2007-2008 counts are not available until mid-January 2009.)

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Schools.

Information Sources: Paul Ash, Department of Education, Division of Exceptional Learners, Department of Education website: www.doe.state.in.us; *Alternative Achievement Standards for Students With the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities*, U.S. Department of Education, August 2005.

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